

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Original) A method for improving the operational performance of a database system, the method comprising:

determining whether an instruction or operation adds information or removes information from the database system, wherein for an add operation, the information is first added to an 'out' table, and wherein for a remove operation, the information is first removed from an 'in' table.

Claim 2 (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information is added to the 'in' table after being added to the 'out' table.

Claim 3 (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information is removed from the 'out' table after being removed from the 'in' table.

Claim 4 (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising determining whether the instruction modifies information, and if so, performing both the add and remove operations.

Claim 5 (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the instructions are implemented via a directory system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 6-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Original) A directory service arrangement including:

a database using a plurality of tables, each table having a plurality of rows and columns, and storing arbitrary data, and

means for processing an instruction or operation by determining whether the instruction or operation adds information or removes information from the database, wherein for an add operation, the information is first added to the 'out' table, and wherein for a remove operation, the information is first removed from the 'in' table.

Claim 12 (Original) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11 being a directory services system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled).